

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
SSM-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /063 W
-----130991 090618Z /13

R 081539Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4759
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 10129

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS PEPR SA IS
SUBJ: VIOLATION OF SAUDI AIRSPACE

REF.: JIDDA 5740

1. DATT CONTACTED IDF DMI LATE AFTERNOON, 7 AUG, TO
RELAY THE DETAILS OF REFTEL. APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES
LATER, IDF DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS CALLED TO ADVISE
THAT AN INCIDENT SIMILAR TO THE ONE INDICATED TO HAVE
OCCURRED ON 5 AUG TOOK PLACE ON 19 JUL.

2. DATT CONTACTED ISRAELI AIR FORCE DIRECTOR OF INTELLI-
GENCE ON MORNING OF 8 AUG TO TRY TO RECONCILE LARGE
DISPARITY BETWEEN 19 JUL AND 5 AUG DATES. THE IAF CHIEF
OF INTELLIGENCE STATED THAT ON THE 19TH OF JUL THEY HAD
AN AIRPLANE IN SOUTHERN JORDAN AND THAT THERE WAS A C-130
IN JORDANIAN AIRSPACE. THE ISRAELI PILOT SAW IT BUT DID
NOT FOLLOW IT. THE C-130, AS INDICATED IN REFTEL, WAS ON
A ROUTE FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AND THE ISRAELIS WERE
FLYING TO THE EAST. THE ISRAELIS FURTHER INDICATED
THAT THEY WERE AWARE THAT THE SAUDIS PUT THEIR AIR
FORCE ON ALERT AND LAUNCHED TWO LIGHTENINGS FROM TABUK.
AS FAR AS THEY KNOW, THE LIGHTENINGS WENT UP TO THE
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BORDER OF JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA BUT DID NOT CROSS
THE BORDER. ISRAELI AIR FORCE CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE
CATEGORICALLY DENIED ANY SUCH INCIDENT OCCURING ON
THE 5TH OF AUG AND STATED THAT ON THE 5TH OF AUG THEY
DID NOT HAVE A FLIGHT OVER JORDAN.

3. PLEASE CHECK WITH SAUDI SOURCES TO SEE IF THE DATES

OF THE REPORTED INCIDENT CAN BE RECONCILED. OBVIOUSLY
WHAT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO HAVE HAPPENED ON ONE OCCASION
COULD HAPPEN ON ANOTHER. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL THREE
PERSONNEL IN THE ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES, WHILE READILY
ACKNOWLEDGING THEY HAD AIRCRAFT OVER JORDAN, EMPHATICALLY
DENIED THAT ISRAELI AIRCRAFT HAD PENETRATED SAUDI AIR-
SPACE.

4. I THINK THAT WE HAVE MADE OUR POINT TO THE ISRAELIS ON
THIS ISSUE. LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS
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Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: MOPS, PEPR, SA, IS
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